

## Carruthers, Aaron@DSS

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**From:** Maitino, Robin@SCDD on behalf of Clark, Mike@DSS  
**Sent:** Friday, January 30, 2015 3:05 PM  
**To:** Boomer, Daniel@CDE; Clark, Mike@DSS; Okwuosa, Chisorom@CDA; Kent, Kristopher@CHHS; Gelber, Eric@DDS; Lewis, Angie@yahoo; Moore, William E.@DOR; Raynor, Oliva@mednetucla; Blakemore, Catherine@disabilityrightsca; Hansen, Robin@ucdmc; Jacobs, Robert@chlausc  
**Cc:** April Lopez (draprillopez@stadiumchiropractic.com); Carruthers, Aaron@DSS; Clark, Mike@DSS  
**Subject:** Letter from SCDD to Agency Councilmembers  
**Attachments:** Agency letter attachment re DD Act Council Membership & Council Responsibilities.docx  
**Importance:** High

This letter is an annual reminder of your role as a Councilmember for the California State Council on Developmental Disabilities (Council).

First, thank you for your willingness to serve as a representative for your department. We appreciate that your agency's work impacts the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities as does the work of the Council. We understand that you have many obligations and appreciate your willingness to join together in our mutual missions for those we serve.

Councils throughout the country are federally funded, self-governing organizations charged with identifying the most pressing needs of people with developmental disabilities in their state or territory. Councils are committed to advancing public policy and systems change that help these individuals gain more control over their lives.

We have found it helpful to offer details on the expectations about your role as a member of the Council. We realize that the role of an Agency representative is different than that of a Self-Advocate or Family-Advocate Councilmember. While statute lays out general expectations, it is helpful to convey and develop some of those in this letter.

The federal Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (DD Act) requires the Council to promote certain principles that include:

- Individuals with developmental disabilities, including those with the most severe developmental disabilities, are capable of self-determination, independence, productivity, and integration and inclusion in all facets of community life, but often require the provision of community services, individualized supports, and other forms of assistance.
- Individuals with developmental disabilities and their families have competencies, capabilities, and personal goals that should be recognized, supported, and encouraged, and any assistance to these individuals should be provided in an individualized manner, consistent with the unique strengths, resources, priorities, concerns, abilities, and capabilities of these individuals.

- Individuals with developmental disabilities and their families are the primary decisionmakers regarding the services and supports these individuals and their families receive, including choosing where an individual lives from available options, and have decision-making roles in policies and programs that affect the lives of these individuals and their families.

Specific to your role, the DD Act states you should have sufficient authority to engage in policy planning and implementation on behalf of your department. Additionally, the DD Act instructs you to recuse comply with conflict of interest requirements by recusing yourself from any discussion of grants or contracts if your department may benefit or be involved with that grant or contract.

We included an excerpt of Section 125 from the DD Act related to council membership and council responsibilities. Much of this language is repeated in the California Lanterman Act, our other guiding statute.

While not specified in statute, there is a unique role you play. The Council is better because your department is represented on it. You provide access to leadership in state government, which helps the council facilitate solutions to problems that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities face in their lives. Additionally, there is an opportunity for a reciprocal relationship between your department and the Council. As you learn of concerns raised by the Council, please bring those concerns back to your Department. Also, please contribute to Council discussions about your understanding of needs and changes within the developmental disability delivery system from your department's point of view.

Again, thank you for interest in and participation with the California State Council on Developmental Disabilities.

Sincerely,

APRIL LOPEZ  
SCDD, Chair

MIKE CLARK  
SCDD, Interim Executive Director